

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method for preparing an asphalt composition, comprising the steps of:
  - providing an asphalt;
  - mixing sulfur with said asphalt at a temperature greater than 200°C to provide a sulfur-asphalt blend;
  - providing a heavy aromatic oil; and
  - providing a polymer additive and mixing said polymer additive with said heavy aromatic oil to provide an oil-polymer blend; and
  - mixing said ~~heavy aromatic oil~~ oil-polymer blend with said sulfur-asphalt blend to provide said asphalt composition.
2. (canceled).
3. (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising cooling said sulfur-asphalt blend to a temperature less than or equal to 200°C before mixing with said oil-polymer blend.
4. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said polymer is mixed with said heavy aromatic oil in an amount up to about 30% wt. based upon weight of said oil-polymer blend.

5. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said oil-polymer blend is mixed with said sulfur-asphalt blend in an amount between about 10% and about 30% wt. based upon weight of said asphalt composition.

6. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said step of mixing said oil-polymer blend with said sulfur-asphalt blend is carried out for a period of time sufficient to provide a substantially homogeneous dispersion of said polymer additive in said sulfur-asphalt blend.

7. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said polymer is SBS polymer.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said sulfur is mixed with said asphalt in an amount between about 0.8% and about 10% wt based upon weight of said sulfur-asphalt blend.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of heating said asphalt to a temperature of between about 220°C and about 270°C to provide a heated asphalt, and mixing said sulfur with said heated asphalt.

10. (original) A method for preparing an asphalt composition, comprising the steps of:

providing an asphalt;

mixing sulfur with said asphalt to provide a sulfur-asphalt blend;

providing a heavy aromatic oil;

mixing said heavy aromatic oil with a polymer to provide an oil-polymer blend; and

mixing said sulfur-asphalt blend with said oil-polymer blend to provide said asphalt composition.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, further comprising heating said asphalt to a temperature greater than 200°C to provide a heated asphalt, and mixing said sulfur with said heated asphalt.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein said heating step comprises heating said asphalt to a temperature between about 220°C and about 270°C.

13. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising cooling said sulfur-asphalt blend to a temperature less than or equal to 200°C before mixing with said oil-polymer blend.

14. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said polymer is mixed with said heavy aromatic oil in an amount up to about 30% wt. based upon weight of said oil-polymer blend.

15. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said oil-polymer blend is mixed with said sulfur-asphalt blend in an amount between about 10% and about 30% wt. based upon weight of said asphalt composition.

16. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said step of mixing said oil-polymer blend with said sulfur-asphalt blend is carried out for a period of time sufficient to

provide a substantially homogeneous dispersion of said polymer additive in said sulfur-asphalt blend.

17. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said polymer is SBS polymer.

18. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said sulfur is mixed with said asphalt in an amount between about 0.8% and about 10% wt based upon weight of said sulfur-asphalt blend.